



Today's Message

Date: March 15, 2015
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *A Banquet In the Grave*

Text: Proverbs 7:1–27 (ESV)

- ¹ My son, keep my words
and treasure up my commandments with you;
² keep my commandments and live;
keep my teaching as the apple of your eye;
³ bind them on your fingers;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
⁴ Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,”
and call insight your intimate friend,
⁵ to keep you from the forbidden woman,
from the adulteress with her smooth words.
- ⁶ For at the window of my house
I have looked out through my lattice,
⁷ and I have seen among the simple,
I have perceived among the youths,
a young man lacking sense,
⁸ passing along the street near her corner,
taking the road to her house
⁹ in the twilight, in the evening,
at the time of night and darkness.
- ¹⁰ And behold, the woman meets him,
dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart.
¹¹ She is loud and wayward;
her feet do not stay at home;
¹² now in the street, now in the market,

and at every corner she lies in wait.
13 She seizes him and kisses him,
and with bold face she says to him,
14 “I had to offer sacrifices,
and today I have paid my vows;
15 so now I have come out to meet you,
to seek you eagerly, and I have found you.
16 I have spread my couch with coverings,
colored linens from Egyptian linen;
17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh,
aloes, and cinnamon.
18 Come, let us take our fill of love till morning;
let us delight ourselves with love.
19 For my husband is not at home;
he has gone on a long journey;
20 he took a bag of money with him;
at full moon he will come home.”

21 With much seductive speech she persuades him;
with her smooth talk she compels him.
22 All at once he follows her,
as an ox goes to the slaughter,
or as a stag is caught fast
23 till an arrow pierces its liver;
as a bird rushes into a snare;
he does not know that it will cost him his life.

24 And now, O sons, listen to me,
and be attentive to the words of my mouth.
25 Let not your heart turn aside to her ways;
do not stray into her paths,
26 for many a victim has she laid low,
and all her slain are a mighty throng.
27 Her house is the way to Sheol,
going down to the chambers of death.

Introduction: Proverbs 7 consists of the second of two consecutive lessons on the dangers of marital infidelity. Once again, Solomon speaks very frankly to his son about temptations he will face and the consequences of giving in. He describes the alluring nature of immorality in main body of the lesson (7:6-23), but he also unmasks the terrible reality that lies behind the pleasure it promises. Though Solomon focuses on the issue of adultery, his lesson applies broadly to evil in all its forms.

Today's take-home truth: The attraction of evil is strong, but true wisdom will protect God's people from its power.

I. A father's appeal: Embrace wisdom. 1-5

- A. Value the words of truth . . . 1-3
- B. because only wisdom can protect you from evil. 4-5

II. The lesson: Without wisdom, you will be drawn into the path of the fool. 6-23

- A. The "simple" are not prepared to encounter evil. 6-13a
 - 1. They are aimless . . . 6-9
 - 2. but evil is not. 10-13a
- B. They are in great danger because evil is skilled in the art of seduction. 13b-20
 - 1. Evil lies: 13b
 - 2. It presents itself as respectable. 14
 - 3. It makes you feel special. 15

4. It promises great pleasure. 16-18
 5. It tells you there is nothing to fear. 19-20
- C. In the end, the “simple” fall. 21-23
1. Evil conquers them . . . 21
 2. with disastrous results. 22-23

III. Conclusion: All who ignore wisdom will suffer eternal loss. 24-27

- A. A final appeal: Please listen! 24
- B. The path of evil is a “banquet in the grave.” 25-27